## REMARKS

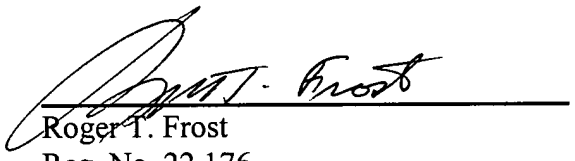
The present amendments remove all multiple dependencies from the claims, including some dependencies that may have been indefinite according to U.S. practice. These amendments thus avoid the surcharge for submitting a multiple-dependent claim, and also reduce the total number of claims for purposes of calculating the filing fee.

The present amendments are not intended to enlarge or diminish the scope of the original claims in this application.

The Office is requested to enter the forgoing amendments before calculating the total amount of filing fee required for this application.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD



Roger T. Frost
Reg. No. 22,176

Date: March 8, 2004

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE